

Metropolitan King County Council

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April 07, 2005

Lt. Gov. Brad Owen, Chair Rules Committee Washington State Senate P.O. Box 40466 Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Senator Rosa Franklin, Vice Chair Rules Committee Washington State Senate P.O. Box 40466 Olympia, WA 98504-0466 Senator Bill Finkbeiner, Ranking Minority Member Rules Committee Washington State Senate P.O. Box 40466 Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Dear Lt. Gov. Owen, Senators Franklin and Finkbeiner:

The Metropolitan King County Council wishes to express its support for Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2266 which would restrict access to precursor materials for the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.

The Council recognizes the need for this legislation as part of our nationally recognized multidisciplinary approach to alleviating the scourge of the illegal manufacture and use of meth.

The most recent state-wide statistics tell us that deaths involving meth are up 11 percent in the last twelve months (over the prior twelve months). Although lab numbers seem to be decreasing statewide, we are also aware that meth manufacturers are getting more creative in their methods – today's meth lab may be a car or a backpack filled with supplies. We are also aware that there is an increasing amount of meth coming into our state from other jurisdictions, highlighting the need for a multi-jurisdictional, multi-layered approach to the problem.





We are proud of our county's continuing work in reducing this significant drug threat. On April 7, 2005, our Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee received an extensive briefing from our County Meth Action Team, including King County Sheriff Sue Rahr and Washington State Patrol representatives. It is clear that our collaboration with the Washington State Methamphetamine Initiative is paying off, but we have a long way to go in our enforcement, prevention, and treatment efforts.

Our statewide, multi-faceted approach is held up as a national example by the National Crime Prevention Council and federal Drug Enforcement Agency. We should continue this legacy by taking steps to restrict access to the precursor chemicals used to make meth.

We thank you for your continuing efforts to aid law enforcement and our county in this matter and strongly urge the passage of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2266.

Respectfully,

Councilmember Reagan Dunn

District 6

Council nember Kathy Lambert

District 3

Councilmember Bob Ferguson

District 2

Councilment ber Larry Gossett

District 10

Councilmember Julia Patterson

District 13

Councilmember Dow Constantine

District 8

Councilmember Steve Hammond

District 9

Councilmember Carolyn Edmonds

District 1

Councilmember Larry Phillips District 4

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

District 7

Councilmember David Irons District 12

Councilmember Dwight Pelz District 5

Councilmember Jane Hague

District 11